

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

~~forming, by a client which is a device configured to provide virtual tuner function, a request for Electronic Programming Guide (EPG) data for communication to a EPG provider over a network, the request including a client identification to identify the client such that the EPG provider is capable to identify an access right of the client, EPG data including data that describes characteristics of a content that is provided by a content provider remotely over the network, EPG data being processed by the EPG provider into a suitable form for storage and processed on the client;~~

~~receiving, by [[the]] a client device, electronic program guide (EPG) EPG data from [[the]] an EPG provider, the EPG data describing characteristics of media assets that are available from a content provider;~~

~~identifying, examining, by the client device, to find one or more locally available media assets, contents for output on the client, the locally available contents-media assets including:~~

~~a local content-media asset previously stored on the client device from a broadcast of a content provider over the network; and~~

~~a local content-media asset that is available for output through execution of one or more applications-an application installed on the client device, the one or more applications including application being selected from a group of applications comprising:~~

~~a web browser; and~~

a game application; and

an application that is utilized to output television program;

generating, by the client device, an EPG for display based on the EPG data received from the EPG provider and the locally available media assets, a result of the examining, the EPG display configured to simultaneously display different types of media assets; including a plurality of representations of a plurality of contents for simultaneous display by the client; wherein:

the plurality of contents include remote content available over the server represented by EPG data and local content available locally on the client;

the plurality of contents include:

a television programming for receipt by the client over a network;

a video-on-demand (VOD); and

an interactive video game;

the EPG is configured to form one or more events in response to a user interaction with one or more said representations, wherein the one or more events are based on information other than application identification information originating from the server;

outputting, by the client, the EPG;

forming, by the client, a selection that identifies a content selected by a user through interaction with the EPG, the selection specifying a content type and a content ID of the selected content, the content type being utilized to indicate a type of application that is suitable for processing the content, the content ID being utilized to identify the content;

receiving a user-submitted selection of a particular media asset represented in the EPG display;

in response to the user-submitted selection of the particular media asset, a virtual tuner executed on the client device selecting an application for presenting the particular media asset;

managing, by the virtual tuner, execution of the application for presenting the particular media asset.

~~utilizing, by the client, a virtual tuner executed on the client in response to the selection to unify execution of the plurality of applications, the utilizing including:~~

~~managing execution of each said plurality of applications to provide respective said content represented by the EPG in response to the events formed utilizing the EPG, said virtual tuner utilizing an application identification table that includes a listing of the one or more applications to enable execution of each of said plurality of applications;~~

~~launching one or more of the plurality of applications that have a content type that matches the content type of the selection;~~

~~passing the content ID to the application such that the application is capable to locate the content for output;~~

~~managing a lifecycle of each said application to output respective said content represented by the EPG automatically and without the user intervention, wherein the lifecycle includes:~~

~~launching the said application;~~

~~rendering the respective said content represented by the EPG on
respective windows that are displayed on a display device, each window
being utilized to display an output for the said content executed by the
respective said application;~~

~~managing one or more windows that are displayed on a display
device, the managing including managing place of the one or more
windows displayed on the display device; and~~

~~terminating the said application when output of the content is
completed;~~

~~utilizing, by the client, the virtual tuner executed on the client in response to an
event, relating to a working background of the one or more applications, not to be
executed by a particular application, the utilizing including:~~

~~switching from a display device to another; and~~

~~changing color of a display of rendered content; and~~

~~utilizing, by the client, the virtual tuner executed on the client in response to an
event requiring additional application or hardware resource to output a content, to
initiate a process to include additional functionality to output the content.~~

2-7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) One or more computer readable-media comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed on a computer, direct the computer to perform the method of claim 1.

9. (Previously Presented) In a virtual tuner executed on a client, a method comprising:

receiving, by the virtual tuner, a selection made from a plurality of content using an EPG that is output by the client, wherein:

the EPG includes a representation of each said content for simultaneous display by the client;

each said content is provided for output by a respective one or more of a plurality of applications; and

at least one said content is television programming;

choosing, by the virtual tuner, one or more of the plurality of applications that, when executed, provide the selected content represented by the EPG, wherein the choosing is independent of any application identifying information originating from a computer distinct from the client; and

managing, by the virtual tuner, execution of the chosen one or more applications to output the selected content.

10. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, wherein the managing includes:

launching the chosen one or more applications for outputting the selected said content; and

terminating the chosen one or more applications when the outputting is completed or an event is received from the EPG.

11. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, wherein the managing is performed in response to one or more events received from the EPG.

12. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, wherein the managing includes managing a lifecycle of the chosen one or more applications.

13. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, wherein said content provided by a first said application is not compatible with a second said application.

14. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, wherein:
the managing includes managing one or more windows; and
at least one said window is utilized to display the selected content.

15. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, wherein the plurality of content includes remote content available over the Internet and local content available locally on the client.

16. (Original) One or more computer readable-media comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed on a computer, direct the computer to perform the method of claim 9.

17-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A client comprising:

a processor;

a network interface, communicatively coupled to the processor, configured to provide a network connection to a wide area network (WAN);

[[a]] an output interface, communicatively coupled to the processor, the output interface configured to provide an output for rendering by a display device; and

a memory configured to maintain:

a plurality of applications that are executable on the processor to provide an output of content on the output interface, ~~wherein at least one said content is television programming received at the network interface;~~

an electronic program guide (EPG) ~~[[EPG]]~~ engine that is executable on the processor to provide an EPG for output on the output interface, wherein the EPG simultaneously displays a plurality of representations of said content for selection; and

a virtual tuner that is executable on the processor to launch one or more of said plurality of applications in response to selection of said representations of said content ~~represented by the EPG~~, independent of any application identifying information originating from a computer distinct from the client, said virtual tuner utilizing an application identification table that includes a listing of one or more applications to enable execution of each of said plurality of applications.

26. (Original) The client as described in claim 25, wherein the virtual tuner is further executable to terminate execution of the one or more said applications.

27. (Original) The client as described in claim 25, wherein the virtual tuner is further executable to:

manage one or more windows corresponding to the plurality of applications; and
at least one said window includes a display of the selected said content.

28. (Original) The client as described in claim 25, wherein:
the network interface is configured as a tuner for receiving one or more broadcasts of the television programming over the WAN; and
the WAN is configured as a broadcast network.

29. (Original) The client as described in claim 25, wherein the content provided by a first said application is not compatible with a second said application.

30. (Original) The client as described in claim 25, wherein the WAN is the Internet.

31. (Original) The client as described in claim 25, wherein the content includes remote content available over the WAN and local content available locally on the client.

32-40. (Canceled)